

NBC BRIEFING

2 May 1957

HONDURAN/NICARAGUAN OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

- I. On 1 May, a clash was reported at the edge of the Nicaraguan-controlled strip.
 - A. At conclusion of his 1 May inaugural address, Pres. Luis Somoza told his audience at the Managua stadium that 35 Nicaraguans had been killed by Honduran troops and that he would "go to the front and lead the defense of Nicaragua, if necessary".
 - B. Sketchy press reports indicate that the incident to which Somoza referred was a 1 May combined Honduran air-ground attack on the village of Mocoron--scene of an alleged 12 April "aggression" by a Nicaraguan patrol.
 - C. The press reports "official Honduran sources" on 1 May claiming that Mocoron has been "recaptured" from Nicaraguan forces. As to casualties, the press quotes Honduran officials as saying "the first Honduran heroes fell today".
- II. On 1 May, OAS Council postponed action for 48 hours to permit delegates to consult their governments on Honduran request for formal foreign ministers meeting. Majority of delegates oppose this, favor "investigation" by Inter-American Peace Committee.

III. *Watch Committee consensus: if war, they would work over hours*

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